

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ITOO SOCIETY IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an organization that has been dedicated to improving central Illinois for 100 years. The Itoo Society is the oldest Lebanese-American organization in the United States and one of the oldest heritage societies in Illinois. Named after a small village in northern Lebanon, the Itoo Society was formed in 1914 by a group of Lebanese immigrants who came together to support their members through financial and emotional hardships. Since then, it has developed into an active community group that Peoria, Illinois is proud to claim.

Peorians know the Itoo Society to be a family oriented organization that honors its members' heritage and culture. The Society has long been dedicated to charitable works that benefit the community members in Peoria as well as villagers in Itoo, Lebanon. Many of their festivals illustrate their dedication to commendable causes, including Peoria's oldest food festival, which honors those who have served in our military. I think my colleagues and I can learn a valuable lesson from the Itoo Society as its members are known for producing results through a team-oriented approach to their many projects.

In addition to serving its members, the Itoo Society opens its doors to charitable organizations and small businesses. By providing the community with a meeting place for business purposes and public fundraising events, the Society contributes to the success of other community institutions. This function is another way the Society brings together friends and neighbors who share similar problems, values, and ideas.

An impressive list of Peorians can claim Itoo roots, including former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, former City Councilman and now Chairman of the Society, Leonard Unes, and Peoria County Circuit Judge Steve Kouri.

I'd like to thank Corrie Ricca and Carl Williams, the Ladies' and Men's Branch Presidents, respectively, as well as Chairman Leonard Unes and the rest of the Itoo Society for their continuing service to the greater Peoria community and its devoted Lebanese members. On behalf of the constituents of Illinois' 18th Congressional District, I commend the exemplary record of service the Itoo Society has contributed. I am honored today to recognize their 100 years of effort. May they have many more to come.

238 YEARS AGO THIS DAY IN HONOR OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of America's 238th birthday and the

brave men and women of The Armed Forces and their families, who've paid and continue to pay the great price of Freedom and Independence for us all. And on this Fourth of July surrounded by your loved ones, say prayer and give thanks to them all. I submit this poem penned in their honor, and America's 238th birthday by Albert Carey Caswell.

238 AGO THIS DAY

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

238 years ago this day . . .
As the birth of this Nation so made its way

Declaring Independence as had they . . .
Shouting out across the world on that day!
With a shot heard around the world to say!
That for the greater good so willing to pay!
The greatest treasure,
That Last Full Measure had all of they!
To Live Free Or Die on that day!
238 years ago this day!
And since then,
throughout the coming years . . .
The price of Freedom,
has been bought and paid by all of these so dear!

As one truth!
One constant!
Has so appeared!
To weigh from year to year!
Are all of these brave hearts,
who have given and gave so all without fear!
And all of those families who have so lived in tears . . .

Whose loved ones now lie in such dark quiet graves so dear . . .
From the beaches of Normandy, to the jungles of Nam,
to An bar Province they've so fought and died for us all so clear . . .

As their courage,
all in the darkest of all nights has so persevered!
With their most precious lives they gave!
And all of their strong arms and legs!
And beautiful eyes upon their face!
As generation after generation,
these magnificent's the price of Freedom have paid!

"with the bombs bursting in air"
"with the rockets red glare"
"gave proof through the night that our flag was still"
"O . . . say can you see" while we all live so free?

This Independence Day!
And remember that somewhere far away,
there are heroes who for all of you will die this day!
And that in hospitals and towns all across this here USA!

There are fine Patriots of Peace,
who must rebuild their lives for the price of Freedom they paid!
So for all of them a prayer so say,
and carry them deep down in your hearts this day . . .

On this Independence Day,
on this America's 238th birthday!
Independence!

IN RECOGNITION OF PLYMOUTH'S FALLEN HEROES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Plymouth's four fallen soldiers who died during the Vietnam War, and to recognize the Vietnam Fallen Soldier Uniform Ceremony being held next week.

During the Vietnam War, Plymouth lost four of its own citizens who answered the call of duty. These selfless individuals will be memorialized by family, friends, and neighbors in their hometown at Plymouth's Vietnam Fallen Soldier Uniform Ceremony on July 3, 2014. Today, I would like to express my gratitude for their service by presenting the names of the fallen:

Staff Sergeant Frederick T. Garside, U.S. Air Force—killed in action in Laos

Specialist Five Robert B. Hedge, U.S. Army—killed in action in Bien Hoa

Lance Corporal Wayne Moore, U.S. Army—killed in action in Quang Tri

HM3 Paul Rezendes, U.S. Navy—killed in action in Quang Tri

These courageous, distinguished men embodied the best ideals of our country and dedicated their lives to its security. I know I speak for many when I say that the memory of these four men will live on as an inspiration to us all and will serve as a reminder of what it means to serve one's country.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize the outstanding sacrifice that these veterans made for their country. I ask that my colleagues join me in this remembrance, and in thanking all of our service members deployed across the globe.

LGBT PRIDE MONTH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague from Wisconsin, Mr. POCAN for organizing this important special order to highlight LGBT Pride Month. Thank you for your leadership as a Co-Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus and really on so many other issues affecting our underserved communities.

Let me just say how proud I am to be a founding member and Vice Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus. Our Caucus is stronger than ever and is really beating the drum for equality, ending discrimination and violence, and promoting the health and well-being for LGBT people here in the U.S. and around the world.

It makes me very proud to be here today during Pride Month as we commemorate the anniversary of last year's landmark Supreme Court decisions that struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act and brought marriage equality back to my home state of California.

These decisions were strong and decisive steps forward in the march towards full equality for all.

Following those decisions, I had the privilege of officiating weddings for same-sex couples at Oakland City Hall—and let me tell you, they reflected the diversity of my district, the diversity of this country, and the diversity of the LGBT community.

Across the nation, some 2.8 million African Americans, Latino Americans, and Asian and Pacific Islanders identify as LGBT.

The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law has produced studies that provide us with critical data and analysis of these LGBT communities and their unique features, challenges, and needs.

The full reports can be found at <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/>.